

# TB Times

Shirley Fannin, M.D.

Director, Disease Control Programs

November 1998

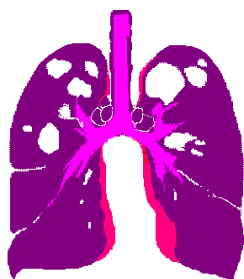
Paul T. Davidson, M.D.

Director, Tuberculosis Control Program

Volume 10 Number 11

## A note From Dr. Davidson

The Professional Advisory Council to the Los Angeles County Tuberculosis Control Program was recently reconvened. We are very pleased to have Dr. Betti Jo Warren of Drew University and Martin Luther King Medical Center as the Chairperson. Dr. Warren has recently completed serving for more than four years as a member of the Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia. The other current members of the Council are listed at the end of this note. The purpose of the Council is



to provide expert input to the TB Control Program regarding priorities in TB control and to lend community support for maintaining an adequate and effective program to control and eventually eliminate TB in Los Angeles County.

Many issues were discussed at the recent meeting. Among the highlights was a report given by Dr. Matthew Goetz of the West L. A. Veterans Center. He described CDC sponsored TB clinical trials at 29 sites in the U. S. and Canada. These include one at the Veterans Center and one at LAC/USC Medical Center directed by Dr. Brenda Jones, also present at the Council meeting. These studies offer a unique opportunity to TB patients in Los Angeles County, but also are made possible by close collaboration between the Health Department and the investigators. Our Public Health Centers also benefit by participating in these trials. Similar collaborative efforts have been an important part of the TB control effort in Los Angeles County for many years. The Council will be meeting approximately every 6 months. I personally want to thank all these very busy people for their willingness to give of their time and talents to the control of tuberculosis in our County.

## Conferences

TB Conferences on the first Friday of the month are held in the Andrew Norman Hall of Orthopaedic Hospital, located at Adams Blvd. & Flower Street. The Physician Case Presentations on the third Friday of the month are held at the TB Control Program Office, Room 506A. Participants must sign-in to receive applicable CME credit. Late arrivals of 15 minutes for a 1 hour program or 30 minutes for a 2 hour program will not receive CME credit.

December 4, 1998

9:00-10:15a.m.

### "HIV and Tuberculosis Update"

Stephen Puentes, M.D.

Gayle Gutierrez, R.N., B.S.N.

10:30-11:30a.m.

TB Case Presentation/Discussion

Hanh Q. Lê, M.D.

December 18, 1998

TB Case Presentations/Discussion

Hanh Q. Lê, M.D.

TB Control Program Office

January 1, 1999

### Cancelled

Happy New Year!

January 15, 1999

TB Case Presentations/Discussion

Hanh Q. Lê, M.D.

TB Control Program Office

February 5 &amp; 6, 1999

### "TB, HIV and Primary Care"

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Downtown Los Angeles, California

February 5th: County DHS Providers

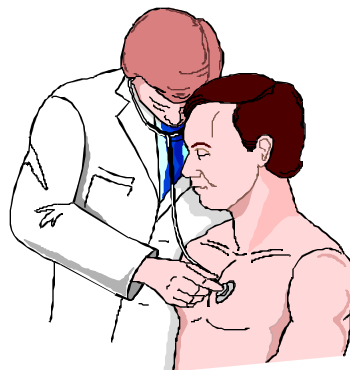
February 6th: Community Based Providers

For more information call Mi Suk Yu-Harlan 213-351-8196

The Centers for Disease Control recently released updated recommendations for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of tuberculosis among adults and children co-infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), MMWR, Oct. 30, 1998, Vol. 47 No. RR-22. These guidelines reflect results of recent clinical trials related to TB treatment and prevention and advances in the treatment of HIV. More information is needed to confirm as well as advance some of the recommendations that have been made. However, there is an apparent urgent need to clarify the application of potentially helpful interventions for TB and HIV co-infected persons. This is made more urgent by the rapidly changing medical management of the HIV infected person. As with most guidelines, there are frustrating gaps because of incomplete data. Some of the recommendations are made with limited or preliminary data as a basis, or without direct evidence. The TB Control Program plans to review these new recommendations carefully and provide recommendations regarding their implementation in our own public health centers. More about this in the future. In the meantime, we would welcome your comments and suggestions concerning the CDC guidelines. The MMWR is available on the Internet or in the Public Health Library. You may also obtain a copy from TB Control by contacting our Health Education Unit.

Professional Advisory Council Members include: Bob Allison, M.D., Brenda Ashkar, R.N., M.S.N., John Clark, M.D., Paul T. Davidson, M.D., Charles Farthing, M.D., Gerald Frank, M.D., Sue Gerber, Matthew Goetz, M.D., Gayle Gutierrez, R.N., B.S.N., Susan Hamusek, R.N., B.S.N., Sydney Harvey, Ph.D., John Hoh, M.D., Susan Hushcroft, M.D., Joseph Indenbaum, M.D., Brenda Jones, M.D., Laura Knowles, M.S.P.H., Flora Lamb, R.N., M.P.H., Hanh Q Le, M.D., John Leedom, M.D., Greg Mason, M.D., Glenn Mathisen, M.D., Bob Miodovski, M.P.H., Donald Morrisky, Sc.D., Albert Niden, M.D., Annette T. Nitta, M.D., Dan Oblitas, M.D., Anthony Oppenheimer, M.D., Claire Panosian, M.D., Tom Privett, Stephen Puentes, M.D., Dan Rodrigue, M.D., Ann Vannier, M.D., Joel Ward, M.D., Betti Jo Warren, M.D., Tom Yoshikawa, M.D., and Irwin Ziment, M.D.

## ***Tuberculosis and Managed Care***



In California and nationwide, we are witnessing an evolution in the public health care system as we move steadily toward a predominately managed care (MCO) system. The External Health System Unit at TB Control, headed by Gayle Gutierrez,

NM, has been examining the impact that managed care is having on TB control programs. While many TB patients have been identified over the years in traditional MCOs such as Blue Cross, Kaiser, etc., the new Medi-Cal models - L.A. Care and Health Net - have made us look more closely at the impact of these prepaid plans. Several observations can be made:

The health department is still the principle provider of clinical services for TB disease and contacts in Los Angeles County.

The need to co-manage TB cases with their primary care provider presents new challenges to the health department clinicians and Public Health Nurses.

The areas of TB screening and prevention are shifting more to the private sector but monitoring and assessment of this effort is almost impossible.

There is currently no mechanism to identify which TB patients are covered by MCOs in order to seek reimbursement from the MCO for those patients being treated by the health department.

A recent survey conducted by the office of James Haughton, Medical Director, is still being reviewed, but preliminary results reveal that approximately 150 to 200 patients with MCO coverage seek public health services in our public health centers each month. This represents revenue that may be billable to a second party payor source.

The External Health System unit will continue to examine the impact of managed care on the TB Control Program and provide updates and training as necessary.

## *Case Reporting*

As the year rapidly draws to a close, there are still many outstanding culture positive suspects that have not been confirmed as a case. As of November 24, 1998, 143 culture positive TB suspects were not confirmed. All cases need to be confirmed by Dec. 31, 1998 in order to be accurately included in the case count for 1998. TB Control urges everyone to submit and/or follow-up of any outstanding paperwork. If you have any questions about reporting, call TB Control at 213-744-6160.

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## *TB and HIV Conferences*

Mark your calendars! The TB Control and HIV Epidemiology Programs are collaborating to provide two, one-day TB/HIV conferences, which will be held on February 5 and 6, 1999 at the Hyatt Regency, Downtown Los Angeles. The training conferences will target public and private health care providers who provide medical care or services to HIV-infected and/or tuberculosis patients in Los Angeles County.

The February 5th conference will target L.A. County public health care providers, including public health center and hospital staff, and personnel from TB Control, HIV Epidemiology and Office of AIDS Programs and Policy. The February 6th conference will target private providers, including individual and group practitioners, personal health providers, and hospital and HMO personnel. There will be no registration fee; lunch and parking will be free, and CMEs will be available.

Featured conference speakers include Patricia Simone, M.D. and Eugene McCray, M.D., both of the CDC, Division of TB Elimination, and Philip Hopewell, M.D., of the UC San Francisco School of Medicine. Local TB and HIV experts will also provide the latest information on management of patients infected or at risk for TB and/or HIV.

For more information, watch your mailboxes and the **TB Times**, or contact Mi Suk Yu-Harlan of the HIV Epidemiology Program at (213) 351-8196.

## *Cultural Competency Participants Needed*

The Coalition Against Tuberculosis in Los Angeles County (CATLAC) has developed a 3 1/2 hour presentation entitled "Cultural Friendly TB Care: Developing Skills to Serve Diverse Ethnic Communities which will be field tested on Thursday, January 14, 1999 from 1:00 to 4:30 pm at TB Control Program headquarters.

Developers of the program are asking for volunteers to participate in this workshop by critically evaluating each of the components and providing comments to the instructors.

This workshop is designed to:

1. Enhance participants' awareness of cultural differences.
2. Increase participants' understanding and acceptance of the impact of culture in health-seeking behavior of patients.
3. Recognize the role of culture on presentation of symptoms and to treatment adherence.
4. Provide communication techniques/skills and encourage health care providers to adopt those that fit well with the cultural context of the patient.
5. Promote an application of care that allows for creative and flexible solutions in various cultural encounters.

Special recognition is given to the following people who developed this training program:

David Berger, TB Program Manager with the American Lung Association, Dr. Shahrzad Bazargan, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Drew University, Dr. Vicki Ebin, Assistant Professor at California State University, Northridge, Heng Fong, Project Director with Pacific Asian Language Services, Bobby Smith, Health Educator with Homeless Health Care Los Angeles and Shoki Ishikawa, Intern with CATLAC

Please call Bob Miodovski, M.P.H. at (213) 744-6229 to reserve a place in this workshop or to obtain additional information.

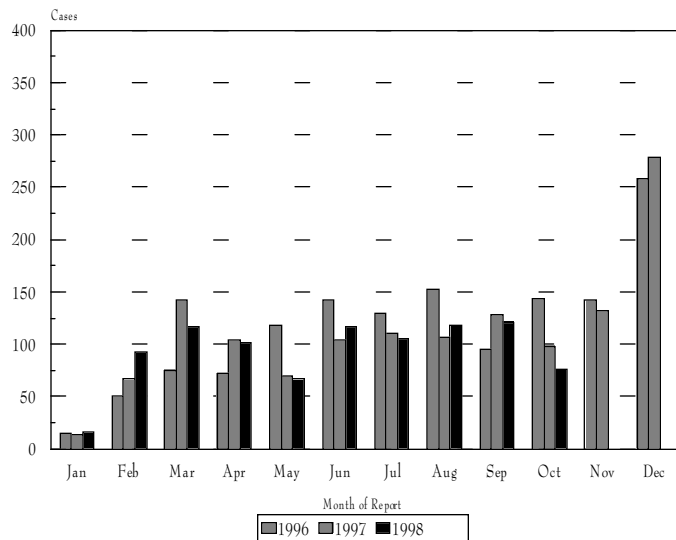
**Tuberculosis Cases by Health District  
Los Angeles County, October 1998 (Provisional Data)\***

Health District	October 1998	October 1997	Year to Date 1998	Year to Date 1997
Alhambra	9	7	71	61
Antelope Valley	0	2	16	15
Bellflower	2	1	29	36
Central	10	8	107	102
Compton	3	1	28	24
East Los Angeles	2	1	22	22
East Valley	6	4	50	37
El Monte	3	9	40	70
Foothill	3	3	19	15
Glendale	0	1	19	27
Harbor	0	2	9	12
Hollywood	11	13	90	87
Inglewood	3	4	47	42
Northeast	3	5	34	49
Pomona	3	7	47	36
San Antonio	0	2	36	40
San Fernando	1	1	20	14
South	2	3	33	30
Southeast	1	1	25	24
Southwest	1	5	46	48
Torrance	2	3	34	26
West	5	5	32	40
West Valley	4	8	53	54
Whittier	0	1	10	16
Unassigned	2	1	9	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>939</b>

\*The overall yearly percent change from 1997 to 1998 is -1.4%.

1. The first part of the document is a list of the names of the members of the committee who have been appointed to study the problem of the

# Los Angeles County Tuberculosis Control Tuberculosis Incidence By Month of Report, 1996-1998



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TB Times is a monthly publication to provide information to those interested in TB surveillance and TB Control Program activities. Please forward your articles, comments, suggestions or address corrections to:

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## ***TB Times***

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### November Topics of Interest...

- ⇒ The 1999 TB and HIV Epidemiology Conference
- ⇒ Tuberculosis and Managed Care
- ⇒ Case Reporting
- ⇒ Cultural Competency Participation